

**EXETER CITY COUNCIL**  
**SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - COMMUNITY**  
**20 JANUARY 2009**

**PILOT ARRANGEMENTS FOR LATE NIGHT WORKING BY COMMUNITY PATROL IN  
RESPECT OF NOISE NUISANCE**

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform Members of recently introduced pilot arrangements for Community Patrol, in response to late night noise occurring beyond mid-night.

**2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The issue of improving the Council's arrangements to better respond to complaints of statutory noise nuisance, especially at night and weekends, have been reported to this Committee in the recent past; a number of key proposals were reported on 4 September 2007 (min 59 refers), with a review of progress on the implementation and success of these proposals, reported on 2 September 2008 (min 60 refers).
- 2.2 Two key proposals were the strengthening of the Community Patrol's role in gathering evidence of noise nuisance to support enforcement action, and the exploration of extending the Patrol rota to provide a reactive response to noise occurring beyond midnight in the early hours of the morning.
- 2.3 Whilst good progress has been made on strengthening the Community Patrol's role, the issue of changing the terms and conditions of the Patrollers to facilitate working beyond midnight on certain days was necessarily subject to detailed negotiations, which were eventually finalised in November 2008. These pilot arrangements were implemented on 27 November, as a year-long pilot.

**3. PILOT ARRANGEMENTS**

- 3.1 The pilot arrangements use the existing complement of 10 Community Patrollers who regularly work outside of normal office hours, including weekends, in preference to the more costly option of setting up a new service. This has allowed for the range of operating hours of the Patrol to be extended beyond midnight to match those days of the week that generate most complaints (Thursday, Friday and Saturday), and those hours beyond midnight that are busiest (01:00 hours throughout the year, with coverage extended to 02:00 hours during May to October). The arrangements also take into account the increase in complaints about student parties in June and October; a timetable of the pilot late night cover arrangements can be found in Appendix I.
- 3.2 The pilot arrangements allow for an hourly supplement to be attached to all hours worked beyond midnight, including overtime where a Patroller may still be responding to a call at the termination of the shift. Due to the fact that the shift rota has been readjusted to allow a later start for those on late finish, it has not been necessary to appoint additional staff to cover the extended hours of operation. The estimated additional cost of the year-long pilot is £4000, representing a cost-effective way of providing operational coverage at key times of unmet demand.

## **4 PROPOSAL**

- 4.1 The pilot arrangements will be reviewed on an ongoing basis at quarterly intervals to examine and incorporate any ideas for improvement. It is intended to conduct a main review of the pilot in August 2009, which will inform a decision on the implementation or otherwise of a permanent scheme; subject to the support of this Committee, and approval by Executive. Currently it is proposed that the pilot will come to an end at the end of 12 months of operation (November 2009).

## **5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The pilot arrangements will cost an estimated £1000 for the remainder of this financial year (to be met within existing budgets), and £3,000 for the remainder of the pilot in 2009/10 (£5000 has been earmarked for this provision in 2009/2010 revenue budgets). Whilst there are potential additional costs for overtime, it is not anticipated that this will be very different than the overtime pattern currently worked, and will be met by existing and future budget provision.

## **6 RECOMMENDED**

- (1) That Scrutiny Committee – Community note the pilot arrangements for late night working.

HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

S:PA/LP/ Committee/109SCC7  
16.12.08

COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE

**Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)**  
**Background papers used in compiling this report:**